



PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 08049.0010

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Oscar L. AVANT et al.)	Group Art Unit: 2876
)	
Application No.: 09/651,323)	Examiner: Ahshik KIM
)	
Filed: August 31, 2000)	Confirmation No.: 3894
)	
For: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR)	
IDENTIFYING A MAILPIECE USING AN)	
IDENTIFICATION CODE)	

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In reply to the Office Action mailed April 21, 2004, the period for response having been extended to October 21, 2004 by a request for extension of three months and fee payment filed concurrently herewith, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification are included in this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims in this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings are included in the attached replacement drawing sheets. The amendments are discussed in the **Remarks** section of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments follow the amendment sections of this paper.